Deletion of objectionable portions from text books

*65. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre and the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have conveyed to the Supreme Court that they were willing to delete text books the portions termed as objectionable;

(b) if so, whether Government had changed the school syllabi to promote a particular political and religious ideology;

(c) whether the objectionable portions have been removed from the syllabi; and

(d) whether most of the States have refused to implement the National Curriculum framework for school education imposed through the NCERT syllabus and text books in their States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Hon'ble Supreme Court was informed on behalf of both Union of India and NCERT during the course of hearing of the petition that if certain portions in the curriculum are identified as objectionable, there would be no objection to consider their deletion.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The changes effected were not intended to promote a particular political and religious ideology.

(d) While using the syllabi and curricular materials developed by the NCERT as exemplar materials, every State has been producing textbooks through their own designated agencies and the NCERT has been rendering all expected assistance in this regard. According to available information, a few States like West Bengal and Kerala have never in the past accepted the textbooks prepared by the NCERT.

Closure of Sindri and Durgapur fertilizer units

*67. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, captioned, "Government may revive FCI, HFC units in Bihar, West Bengal", appearing in 'Business Standard' dated 29th September, 2002;

(b) whether Government are reconsidering their decision to close down units of Sindri and Durgapur, as reported in the aforesaid news-item;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government are also considering "delaying" the closure of these units, by at least a year, as reported in the news item; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir, the news-item has appeared in the newspaper on 20.9.2002. The Government has taken a decision to close down FCI including Sindri unit excepting the Jodhpur Mining Organisation and HFC including Durgapur unit as the same have not been found techno-economically viable. The closure activities are in progress.

Disparities in UGC grants

*68. DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 86 per cent of non-plan grants released by the UGC during 2000-2001, have gone to Central Universities and the Deemed Universities leaving the State Universities with only a marginal share of these funds;

(b) whether gross disparities also exist in the grant of non-plan assistance between colleges affiliated to Central Universities and those to the State Universities; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether the UGC would be asked to ensure that the State Universities